

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 11293 161648Z

67

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 COME-00 EB-07 FEA-01 /030 W

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R 161647Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9933

UNCLAS PARIS 11293

FOR OES/SCI AND DEPT PASS DIRECTOR, NBS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, TGEN, FR

SUBJECT: NBS INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED TECHNOLOGY

COOPERATION WITH FRENCH CENTER FOR BUILDING SCIENCE

AND TECHNOLOGY

1. ON 15 APRIL DR. JAMES R. WRIGHT AND WILLIAM C. CULLEN OF NBS VISITED DR. ROSSI, DIRECTOR OF THE GOF'S CENTER FOR BUILDING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY--CSTB, HIS DEPUTY, M. AIGROT, AND GEORGE G. HERHOLTZ TO DISCUSS THE CSTB JOINT COOPERATION PROGRAM WITH THE NBS'S CENTER FOR BUILDING TECHNOLOGY. HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS PERTAINING TO SUBJECT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. BOTH SIDES AGREE THAT THE LETTER OF 1969 ESTABLISHING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS HAS BECOME SURPASSED BY A BROADENED RANGE OF COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES, WHICH NOW CALLS FOR A HIGHER LEVEL OF COOPERATION FORMALIZED IN AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NBS'S INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED TECHNOLOGY--IAT-- AND THE CSTB. DR. ROSSI ASKED THAT THE IAT PREPARE A DRAFT FOR A NEW FRENCH-AMERICAN AGREEMENT WHICH, AFTER DISCUSSION BY BOTH SIDES, COULD BE FORMALLY ACCEPTED ON THE OCCASION OF A PLANNED VISIT BY DR. ROSSI TO NBS IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER 1976.

B. THE SCOPE OF TECHNICAL INTERESTS OF THE CSTB HAS GROWN CONSIDERABLY SINCE 1969 AND NOW APPROXIMATELY PARALLELS THAT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED TECHNOLOGY. ACTIVITIES IN COMMON INCLUDE FIRE SAFETY,
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BUILDING TECHNOLOGY, HUMAN FACTORS, CODES AND STANDARDS,

AND CONSUMER APPLIANCES. THE CSTB'S CHARTER NOW ALSO INCLUDES TOPICS IN AIR POLLUTION WHICH INCLUDE AND EXTEND BEYOND IAT'S RESPONSIBILITIES.

C. BOTH SIDES AGREE TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM WHICH COVERS JOINT ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. TOWARD THIS END THEY PROPOSED THAT THERE WOULD BE A GENERAL TEAM VISIT FROM IAT TO CSTB IN LATE 1976 OR EARLY 1977 WITH A RETURN VISIT FROM CSTB ACTIVITY LEADERS TO FOLLOW SOMETIME THEREAFTER.

D. BOTH SIDES ARE PLEASED WITH THE VALUE GAINED FROM THE EXCHANGE OF RESEARCH STAFF MEMBERS AND WISH TO CONTINUE THIS PRACTICE. CSTB OFFERED TO SEND A STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING SPECIALIST IN EXCHANGE FOR AN ACOUSTICS EXPERT. (IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT CSTB TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN MAKING THIS PROPOSAL.)

E. THE AMERICAN VISITORS NOTED THAT CSTB'S CAPABILITIES IN BUILDING ECONOMICS ARE MATURING AND THAT INCREASED JOINT ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA COULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR BOTH SIDES.

F. SOLAR ENERGY IS OF HIGH INTEREST TO CSTB, AND, ALTHOUGH THE FRENCH ARE JUST GETTING STARTED IN THIS AREA, THEY ARE VERY INTERESTED IN PROFITING FROM NBS'S EXPERIENCE WITH SOLAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS.

2. AMONG THE NEW IDEAS FOR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WHICH THE NBS REPRESENTATIVES FOUND WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION AS POTENTIAL NEW JOINT PROJECTS ARE WORK IN DRAINAGE OF USED WATER, I.E., DRAINED WASTES AND VENT PLUMBING, AND THE SUBSTITUTION OF SCARCE METALS, SUCH AS USING OTHER THAN COPPER IN TUBING AND THE USE OF PLASTIC IN HOT WATER PRESSURE SYSTEMS.

3. CSTB UNDER ROSSI IS BROADENING AND CENTRALIZING GOF INTEREST IN CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY, ROUGHLY IN PARALLEL WITH NBS'S GROWING RESPONSIBILITIES. THE EVENTUAL COMMERCIAL IMPACT OF THIS PARALLELISM IN APPROACH IS CONSIDERED WORTHY OF CONTINUING ATTENTION. GAMMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS11293
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760146-0060
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760454/aaaabtgn.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: oatisao
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by oatisao>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NBS INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION WITH FRENCH CENTER FOR BUILDING SCIENCE
TAGS: TECH, TGEN, FR, US, NBS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006